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Balaguer's headaches

The promise of a return to prosperity that accompanied the August inauguration of the Dominican Republic's President Joaquin Balaguer has soured with the discovery that virtually the entire national treasury was emptied by the administration of his predecessor, Salvador Jorge Blanco.

Mr. Balaguer's efforts to promote U.S. investment and stimulate employment are being hampered by the low world price for sugar and the cuts that have taken place in recent years in the U.S. sugar import quota. The situation may be tempting to Fidel Castro, who has intimate relations with the Dominican Communist Party.

Revelations by a member of the Dominican Communist Party that scores of young communists have received extensive training in terrorism and guerrilla warfare in Nicaragua — followed by field experience in El Salvador with the Farabundo Marti insurgents — have caused U.S. intelligence experts to examine carefully the recent tour of Eastern Europe by Narciso Isa Conde. The Dominican Communist Party chief has personally been recruiting terrorism trainees; his recent protracted tour of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and other Warsaw Pact states may portend violent protests ahead to undermine the Balaguer administration.

In Santo Domingo, intelligence officials estimate that at least 300 Dominican communists have undergone terrorist training. Mr. Isa Conde's visits may have included recruiting efforts among Dominican students abroad, as well as requests for aid from the East European communist parties. A statement by one of the parties said the discussions covered "efforts of the Dominican Communist Party for unification of the leftist and progressive forces in that country and about the struggle of the Dominican communists against imperialism and reaction."

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